

Closure of mines in the Eastern Coalfields

1095. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal mines shut down so far in the Eastern Coalfields alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) the loss of production of coal suffered due to closing of these mines; and

(c) the number of workers/miners affected by the closing of these mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The total number of coal mines closed in Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) since nationalisation are 65. The major reasons for closing of these mines were as follows:—

- (i) Exhaustion of mineable reserves,
- (ii) Safety considerations,
- (iii) Techno economic unviability,
- (iv) Fire/inundation.

(b) All the inputs of closed mines have been re-deployed in re-organised mines and new projects to make up the shortfall caused mainly due to exhaustion of reserves.

(c) No worker/miner was affected due to closing down of these mines as all the workers/miners have been gainfully deployed in other new mines/re-organised mines.